

Remarks

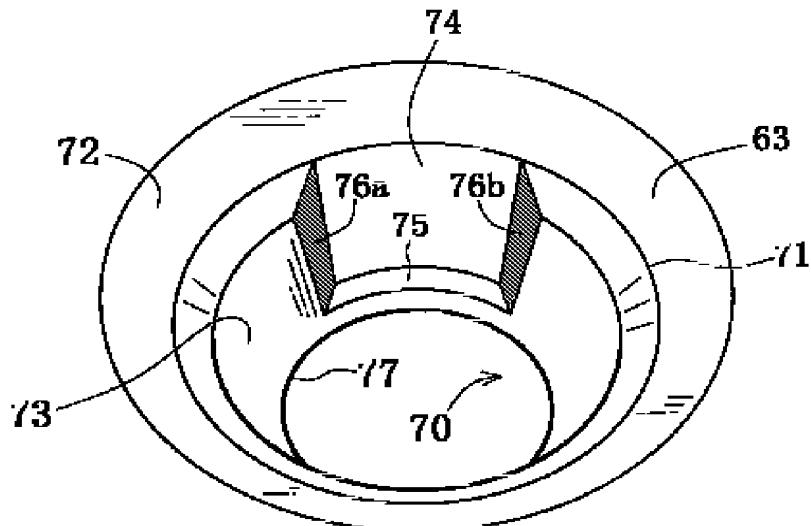
This amendment is in response to the final office action dated January 7, 2009. Claims 1, 4-8, 27-31, and 33-35 have been amended and a replacement abstract has been provided which is a single paragraph. A request for continued examination is attached herewith.

Claims 1-6, 10, 12-19, 24, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2001220805 A to Miyagami et al., hereinafter "*Miyagami*." Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the followings remarks.

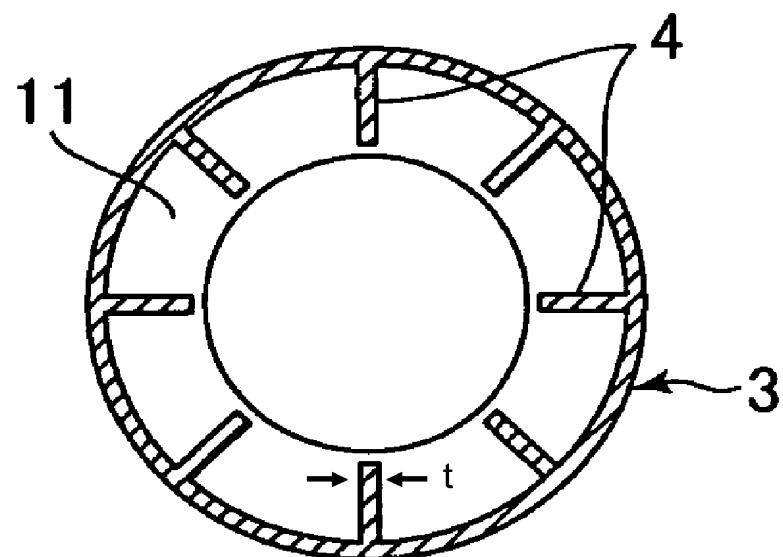
Claim 1, as amended, recites a drain socket including a plurality of thin plate-like straightening vanes, each having a finite thickness, provided upstream of a siphon inducing region to extend from the inner wall of the drain socket body in an inward direction of a channel of the drain socket body.

Miyagami does not teach a drain socket with thin plate-like straightening vanes, each having a finite thickness. The Examiner points to Fig. 10 (reproduced below) of *Miyagami* and refers to 74 as the siphon inducing region and 76a and 76b (red) as straightening vanes. The thin plate-like straightening vanes of claim 1 are much different than 76a/b, they have a finite thickness and are not merely a side surface of a recessed portion of the drain socket (See Fig. 2a of the present application reproduced below). Furthermore, the "straightening vanes" of *Miyagami* are not located upstream from the siphon inducing region 74, as in claim 1. In contrast, the vanes 76a/b are surfaces defined by the recessed region 74.

【図10】



Miyagami



Present Application

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by *Miyagami* and requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) to

said claim. Claims 2-6, 10, 12-19, 24, and 26 are ultimately dependent from claim 1 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as above as well as for their own individual limitations.

Claim 4, as amended, recites the drain socket according to claim 3, wherein the drain socket further comprises a channel expansion section in which an inside diameter of the drain socket body generally increases in a direction from the outlet towards the drain pipe. The straightening vanes are provided in the channel expansion section.

Miyagami teaches a narrowing of the diameter of the inside of the pipe, starting at region 72, which is level with the beginning of the recess 74, and continues to narrow until conical region 72 ends. The pipe then stays the same diameter (Fig. 9) until step 75, which further constricts the pipe. Recess 74 does not generally increase the inside of the diameter in the direction of the flow, rather the pipe is constricting when recess 74 starts and stays the same for the full height of the recess 74.

Claim 5 recites the drain socket of claim 4, wherein the straightening vanes are provided on an inner wall of the expansion section. As discussed above, *Miyagami* does not teach the channel expansion section as in claim 4.

Claim 6 recites the drain socket of claim 1, wherein the number of straightening vanes is in the range from 3 to 16. As discussed above, the straightening vanes of claim 1 are much different, and not taught by *Miyagami*. In addition, *Miyagami* only teaches two "straightening vanes," not a range of 3 to 16.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-6, 10, 12-19, 24, and 26 are patentable over *Miyagami* and requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) to said claims.

Claims 7-9, 11, 20-23, 25, and 27-36 have been rejected as unpatentable over *Miyagami* in view of JP 08326136 A to Yosuke et al., hereinafter "*Yosuke*." Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Claims 7-9, 11, 20-23, and 25 are dependent from claim 1. As shown above, *Miyagami* does not teach all the limitations of claim 1. *Yosuke* does not rectify these deficiencies, specifically it does not teach a plurality of thin plate-like straightening vanes, each having a finite thickness, located upstream of the siphon inducing region. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that said claims are patentable over *Miyagami* in view of *Yosuke* and requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) to said claims.

Claim 27, as amended, recites a drain socket whose center is eccentrically located with respect to the center of an outlet of a trap drainage channel. The drain socket comprises a plurality of deflector plates, each having a finite thickness, extending in an inward direction from an inner wall of the channel expansion section, a siphon inducing shelf formed at a downstream end of the channel expansion section to extend at least on the side in the direction opposite from the direction of eccentricity; and a pipe that extends from the downstream end of the channel expansion section having a downstream end eccentrically offset from the inlet for coupling with the drain pipe and a bent region coupling the downstream end of the pipe to the channel expansion section.

Similar to the plate-like straightening vanes of claim 1, *Miyagami* does not teach the plurality of thin deflector plates of claim 27. The deflector plates have a finite thickness, and as discussed above, the surfaces 76a/b of *Miyagami* do not have a finite thickness, but are the side walls of the recess 74. Also, the invention of claim 27 recites that the siphon region is located at a downstream end of the channel expansion section, and therefore downstream from the deflector plate (which extends from the wall of the expansion section). This is not taught by *Miyagami*, where the "straightening vanes" 76a/b are concurrent with the syphoning region 74, as discussed above. *Yosuke* does not rectify the deficiencies of *Miyagami* in teaching all of the elements of claim 27.

Claims 28-36 are dependent on claim 27 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as above, as well as for their individual limitations.

Claim 28, as amended, recites the drain socket of claim 27, wherein the deflector plates are formed only on the inner wall of the channel expansion section on a side of the expansion section generally opposite from the direction that the pipe is offset. As discussed above, *Miyagami* does not teach the deflector plates of claim 27. Furthermore, he does not teach deflector plates formed only on a side of the expansion section opposite the offset pipe.

Claim 30, as amended, recites that the deflector plates of claim 27 are of generally triangular shape. *Miyagami* teaches only flat surfaces as "straightening vanes," not triangular deflector plates.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 27-36 are patentable over *Miyagami* in view of *Yosuke* and requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) to said claims.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested. Applicant has made a genuine effort to respond to each of the Examiner's objections and rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicant believes that all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,
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